cultivation of more remunerative crops like pulses and oilseeds, the Government have been announcing in recent relatively higher increases in the Minimum Support Prices of pulses and oilseeds *vis-a-vis* paddy and wheat.

Growth targets for Rajasthan

1096. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of growth targeted and achieved in agriculture sector in Rajasthan during the year 2002-03; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the rate of growth of production in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a)The average annual growth rate envisaged during the Tenth Plan period in the agriculture sector in the State of Rajasthan is 4.5%. However, Rajasthan registered negative growth in production in 2002-03 due to severe drought conditions that affected crop production in the State and as such the targets could not be achieved. During the year 2002-03, the State received only 248.6 mm rain which was nearly 55% less than the normal rainfall. The production under major crops against the target for 2002-03 was as under:

Crops	Production (Lakh Tonnes)	
	Target	Achievement
Cereals	73.90	70.47
Pulses	8.39	4.63
Oilseeds	21.80	17.55
TOTAL	104.09	92.65

(b) The following steps were taken to improve the rate of growth of production and to grow more fodder crops to meet the requirement of fodder.

(a) Emphasis on crop diversification with focus on crops requiring less irrigation water like Barley, Mustard, Gram and Spices.

(b) Mixed/intercropping of Cereals with Pulses.

(c) Sowing of short duration and high yielding varities.

(d) Increased use of inputs, Bio-agents, fertilizers and high yielding varieties.

(e) Extensive campaign for efficient use of water by sprinkler, pipe line, and use of water storage devices like Khet talai, farm, pond etc. and

(f) Extensive training and Ratri goshties.

Implementation of the APMA

1097. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act prepared by the Centre has been taken up by the States for implementation; and

(b) which are the States that have taken initiatives for the implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) An inter-Ministerial Task Force constituted by this Department on agricultural marketing reforms in its report of 28.06.02 has recommended several measures for strengthening and developing agricultural marketing system in the country. The Task Force has *inter-alia* recommended promotion of competitive agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors, direct marketing and contract farming programmes by amending the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act.

The recommendations of the Task Force were discussed with the State Government in the National Conference on Agricultural Marketing Reforms held on 27.09.2002 later by the Standing Committee meeting of State Ministers held on 29.1.2003, wherein, this Ministry was requested formulate a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing in order to guide the States in implementing the reforms. Accordingly, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has formulated a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing.